



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

to the

Romsey and Stockbridge

Rural District Council

for the Year 1939.





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ANNUAL REPORT

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Rural District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1939. In accordance with instructions received from the Minister of Health, the report has been materially shortened, several items have been omitted and others dealt with as briefly as possible.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	83672
Population (as estimated by Registrar-Gen.)	...	...	...	20160
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	6088
Ratio of population to inhabited houses	...	...	...	3.3
Rateable value	...	...	...	£107455
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	£456.45
Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	420

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—

	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate ...	178	149	327	} Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population mid-1939—17.4
Illegitimate ...	7	8	15	

Still Births— ...	3	5	8	} Rate per 1000 (live and still) births—22
Deaths— ...	133	112	245	

Death Rate per 1000
estimated aver. population
12.1

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, child birth	}	From Sepsis—0
		From other causes—0

Infantile Mortality. Death rate of infants under 1 year of age—

All infants per 1000 live births	...	...	46
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	45
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births	...	...	66
Deaths from Cancer, all ages	...	...	26
„ „ Measles „	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough, all ages	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhœa, under 2	...	...	2

Of all causes of death, Heart disease accounted for 86 as compared with 61 in 1938, Cancer 26, Pneumonia 5, Tuberculosis 6, other circulatory 14, and Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc., 17 as compared with 8 in 1938.

The birth rate is high and the infantile mortality rate is low.

The outbreak of war in September led to an increase in the school population, owing to the admission of evacuees. The number of evacuees, whose habits were not satisfactory, was surprisingly large, when compared with country children. It was possible that there were more children in the country with this defect than we were aware of, but a nurse who had worked in the same country district for about 30 years, assured me that this was not the case. Lack of home training seemed to be one of the causes. It was suggested that some children developed the habit when they were left at home by their mothers, who went out for various reasons.

The beneficial effect of the Country on children was very apparent in the case of about 25 children who were billeted in a large house on an estate. Their heights and weights were taken monthly, and a number were found to have put on more weight in three months than the average increase in weight for their respective ages for the whole year.

One official in the course of an inspection remarked that he had not realised how nice the country child was until he saw it side by side with the town one.

The improved housing conditions, the provision of free and cheap milk to children and the supply of milk to nursing and expectant mothers has had a very good effect.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(1) *Public Health Officers of the Authority.*

(a) The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health of the adjoining Borough of Romsey and Assistant County Medical Officer.

(b) The Sanitary Inspector is a whole time Officer.

(2) *Nursing in the Home.*

There is no nursing arrangement or contribution by the Local Authority.

- (a) General, by Parish Nurses, supported by voluntary subscriptions.
- (b) In cases of Ophthalmia and Puerperal Pyrescia not requiring hospital treatment, nursing is provided where necessary by arrangement with the County Council.

(3) *Laboratory Facilities.*

The County Laboratory provides facilities for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

An emergency Laboratory has been established since Sept., 1939, for an area which includes Romsey.

(4) *Hospitals.*

GENERAL. The Romsey and District Hospital, the Southampton Hospitals and the Royal Hants County Hospital are those principally used. The local Sanitary Authority as such make no contribution.

INFECTIONS. Where cases cannot be satisfactorily nursed at home, they are admitted, by arrangement, to the Salisbury and District Isolation Hospital.

WAR. Group 1B. Romsey and District Hospital.
Group 2. Romsey Emergency Hospital.

SMALL POX. Provision is made by the County Council.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS. Institutional arrangements made by County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS. The County Council provide Sanatoria and Dispensaries, Maternity and Infant Welfare. The County Council have Centres at Broughton, Houghton, King's Somborne, Lockerley, Maybush, Mottisfont, North Baddesley, Romsey, Stockbridge and Wallop.

ORTHOPÆDIC. Children from the area attend the Clinics at Eastleigh, Andover and Totton

AMBULANCE. For infectious cases an ambulance is provided by the Isolation Hospital Authorities.

AIR-RAID CASUALTY SERVICES. These are under the control of a Joint Committee formed of representatives from the Romsey Borough and Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District Council.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1939.

17th January, 1941.

Closet Accommodation.

The conservancy system is in general use in the District, but cesspools are common. Some of the houses in the parish of Millbrook drain into Southampton Corporation Sewers.

Public Cleansing.

Scavenging is carried out by some Parish Councils, the rubbish being dumped in pits. Cesspools are emptied by Contractors in the Millbrook area.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Inspections under Part II, Public Health Act, 1936.	...	201
Formal Notices	... ..	0
Complied with	... ..	0
Informal Notices	... ..	10
Complied with	... ..	10
Number of houses disinfected	... ..	26
Inspections under Part II, Housing Act 1936...	...	495
Formal Notices served	.. ...	0
Informal Notices served	... ..	11
Complied with	... ..	11
Inspections under Part IV., Public Health Act 1936	...	204
Formal Notices served	... ..	0
Informal Notices served	... ..	7
Complied with	... ..	7
Inspections under Slaughter Houses Order and Public Health (Meat) Regulations	... ..	97
Formal Notices served	.. ...	0
Informal Notices served	... ..	12
Complied with	... ..	12

Camping Sites.

Number of sites used in 1939	... ..	10
Number of sites licensed by Local Authority	... ..	4
Estimated maximum number of campers resident at one time during the Summer season, 1939	... ..	41

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no baths open to the public in this area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No cases have been reported.

Housing.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

Number of Houses inspected for defects	310
Number of inspections made for the purpose	401
Number of houses recorded	201
Number of Inspections made	300
Number of houses found to be unfit for habitation ..	97
Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for habitation	32
Number of houses made fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority	15
Number of houses made fit as a result of formal notices	0
Number of Demolition orders issued	0
Number of houses demolished after demolition order served	0

Milk Supply.

Number of Dairy Farms	302
Number of Cows in the District (approx)	4900

G. V. WILLIAMS,
Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The admission of Senior and other children to Romsey Schools from different areas of the Rural District and the nearness of a large Borough to part of Rownhams and Millbrook has rendered the control of infectious diseases difficult. The admission of evacuee children from the towns probably carrying a different type of germ did not, fortunately, have any ill results on the local children.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION—T.A.F. (B. W. & Co.) used. 184 children were immunised under a scheme approved by the Council. The total number immunised since 1935 is 1790.

One case of Enteric Fever was notified, and there were two deaths from Diphtheria. The incidence of infectious illness has been light.

A supply of Diphtheria antitoxin is kept for issue to local practitioners.

Full use has been made of the arrangements for examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens at the County Laboratory. No occasion arose for utilising the services of the Emergency Laboratory.

The Sanitary Inspector carries out the fumigation of rooms and their contents by Formalin Vapour.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
DURING THE YEAR 1939.**

Disease	Age Periods												Total Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	Age Periods														
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65			
Scarlet Fever	..	-	-	-	-	5	2	2	2	-	-	-	11	6	0
Diphtheria	-	-	1	-	6	1	-	3	1	-	-	12	10	2
Enteric Fever	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	2	0
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	5	0	0
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	4	0	0
Chicken Pox	..	-	1	2	-	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	11	0	0
Whooping Cough	2	4	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	4	0

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises			Number of		
			Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories	...	...	0	0	0
Workshops	...	...	0	0	0
Workplaces	...	...	0	0	0
Totals			0	0	0

CANCER

Deaths :— Males 14, Female 12, Total 26.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1939 :

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	4	0	2	3	1	0	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS 1925.

There was no action under these Regulations, no case to which they apply having been met with. Nor was there any case for action under the Public Health Act 1925, Section 62.

The Public administration with regard to Tuberculosis cases and the arrangements made for them, are carried out by the County authority and details are given in the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer.

TABLE.

Causes of death in Romsey and Stockbridge Rural District, 1939.

Causes of Death.			Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	...	...	133	112
5.	Diphtheria	...	—	2
6.	Influenza	...	2	—
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	—	1
9.	Tuberculosis Resp.	...	3	2
10.	Other tuberculosis diseases	...	—	1
13.	Cancer	...	14	12
14.	Diabetes	...	3	1
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage etc.	...	9	8
16.	Heart diseases	...	45	41
18.	Other circulatory diseases	...	3	11
19.	Bronchitis	...	5	3
20.	Pneumonia	...	2	3
22.	Peptic ulcer	...	1	1
23.	Diarrhœa under 2	...	2	—
24.	Appendicitis	...	1	—
25.	Cirrhosis of liver etc.	...	—	1
26.	Other diseases of liver	...	1	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	2	—
28.	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	4	4
31.	Congenital debility etc.	...	8	2
32.	Senility	...	11	7
33.	Suicide	...	3	—
34.	Other violence	...	2	2
35.	Other defined diseases	...	12	9

(a) Seven copies will be sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1.

(b) One copy to the Under Secretary (Statistical Branch), Home Office, Horseferry Road, London, S.W.1.

(c) One copy to the County Medical Officer.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. TATE, *Medical Officer of Health.*

